





EERIE. Dec. 1951 Jan. 1952—Vol. 1, Number 4. Published bi-monthly by AVON PERIODICALS. Inc., 575 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.* Jos. Mayers, Pres. Soil Cohen, Editor and General Manager. Application for second class entry pending at the Post Office, New York, N.Y. One year subscription in the U.S. 40c plus 15c for packing and mailing—total 55c, elsewhere \$1.00 Capyright 1951 by Avan Periodicals, Inc. All names in this periodical are entirely fictitious and no identification with actual persons is intended.

Printed in U. S. Au



THE BOTTONLESS SLIME OF DEGREDATION WOULD SEEM THE NATURAL HOME OF EVIL...
BUT BEAUTY CAN BE A RESTING PLACE FOR THE TALONS OF DEPRAVITY! WHEN A MAN REALIZES
THAT HIS INTENSE DESIRE TO BREAK THE NATURAL LAWS OF LIFE HAS CALLED A GREAT EVIL INTO
THE WORLD, THEN HIS VERY SOUL SHRINKS FROM THE HORROR HE HAS CAUSED...AND HE KNOWS
HE WILL NEVER BE FREE UNTIL THIS HORROR IS GONE!

IT BEGAN WITH LOVE... THIS TALE OF EVIL. BARBARA SINCLAIR WAS DYING...





CAN THE WILL OF ONE MAN KEEP A LOVED ONE FROM DEATH? AT THIS MOMENT IT DIDN'T SEEM SO, BECAUSE.





PLEASE, DARLING... DON'T LEAVE ME! YOU'RE ALL I HAVE IN THE WORLD! PLEASE..., PLEASE... OPEN YOUR EYES!

DOES ANY MAN KNOW WHAT DEATH IS?
RICHARD SINCLAIR DIDN'T ... AND HE DIDN'T
CARE! HE KNEW JUST ONE THING ... HIS
WIFE MUST LIVE AGAIN!

THERE MUST BE SOME POWER THAT WILL BRING YOU BACK TO ME! EVEN THE POWER OF EVIL ... YES! I CALL ON THE POWER OF EVIL TO HELP ME! HELP ME!









ONCE RICHARD WAS SURE DR. JONES WAS OUT OF THE HOUSE, HE RACED BACK TO THE BEDROOM ...





THAT
WAS
THE
FIRST
STRANGENESS.
THE
SECOND
CAME
THAT
NIGHT...



THAT NIGHT.



















ANNIE RUSHED AWAY FROM THE HOUSE WITH THE TERROR OF THE UN-KNOWN GNAW-ING AT HER NERVES. EVERY SHAD-OW BROUGHT HINTS OF HORROR, AND EVERY SOUND SEEMED TO BE A FOLLOWING FOOTSTEP ...

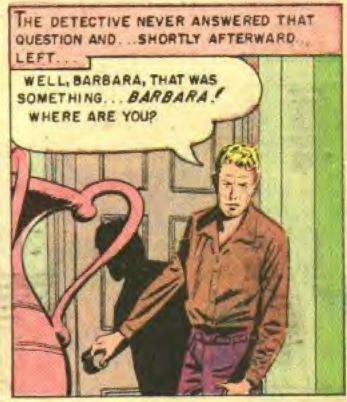
















LIEUTENANT WILSON!

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!







I'LL SNAP







THE CANDLES!

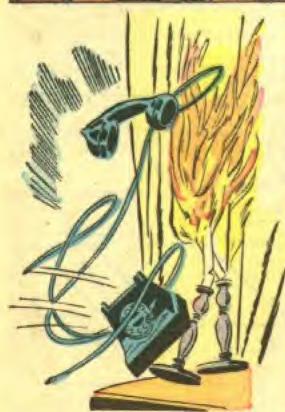
RICHARD PICKED UP THE CANDLES AND WHIRLED. THE EFFECT WAS INSTAN-TANEOUS...









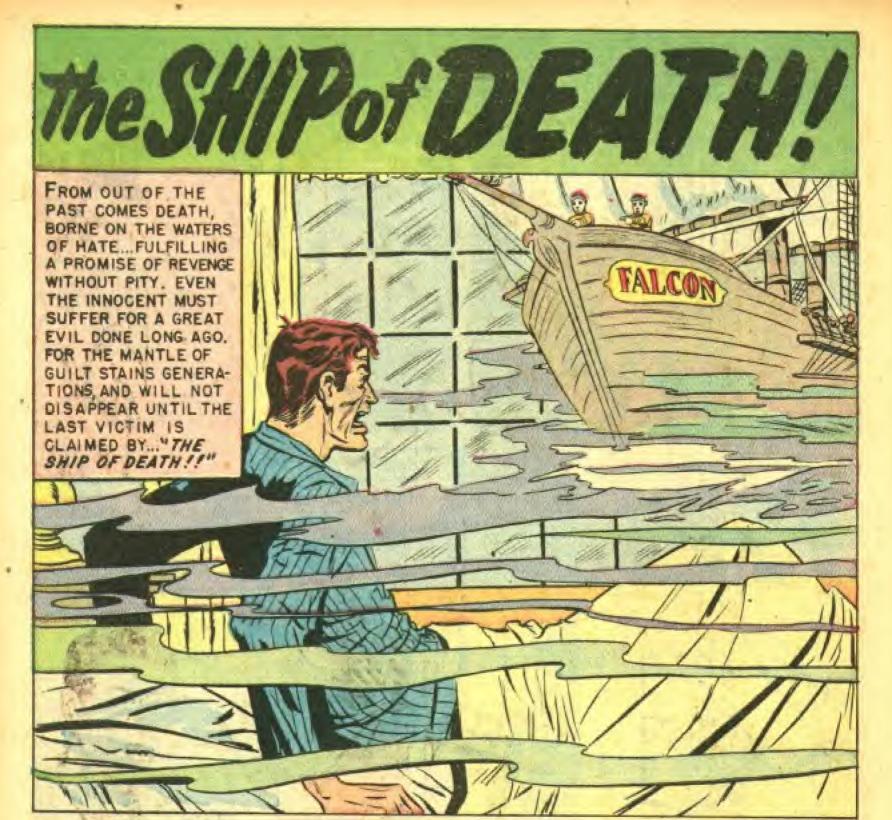
















DICK TOOK HIS SUITCASES
FROM THE TAXI, AND THE
DRIVER RUSHED AWAY, AS
THOUGH ANXIOUS TO ESCAPE
FROM SOME UNSEEN HORROR.

I DON'T BLAME DON'T BE SILLY

I DON'T BLAME DON'T BE SILLY,
HIM! IT'S SO DARLING. IT'S
DARK AND JUST THAT EVER
GLOOMY. SINCE MY GRANDDICK... I'M FATHER DIED,
AFRAID! AFRAID! AFRAID! FOR.

CARED
FOR.

LOOK AT THE DIF-I ... I FERENCE A LITTLE DON'T LIGHT MAKES! KNOW. ONCE YOU GET DICK. I RID OF SOME OF JUST WISH THE DUST ... WE DIDN'T YOU'LL SEE HAVE TO IT'S A WONDER-STAY HERE. FUL PLACE.





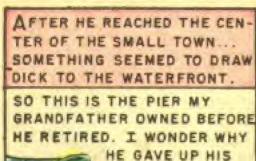




DICK PICKED UP ONE OF THE SHIP MODELS AND PLACED IT ON THE EMPTY SPOT ON THE MANTEL. HE RECOILED WITH HORROR AS .. SEEM-INGLY IMBUED WITH A LIFE OF ITS OWN ... THE MODEL WRITHED OUT OF HIS HAND AND TOPPLED TO THE FLOOR!







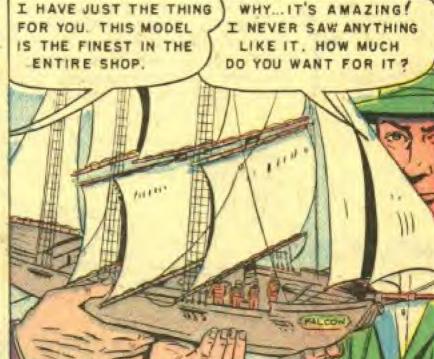


PERHAPS DICK CARTWRIGHT THOUGHT HE WAS WANDER-ING AIMLESSLY... PERHAPS HE WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE FORCE THAT DREW HIM TO A SMALL SHOP IN A NARROW STREET NEAR THE PIER...





















THERE WAS A STRAINED SILENCE
IN THE HOUSE UNTIL BEDTIME.
AND THEN, SLEEP WAS UNEASY...
PUNCTUATED BY DREAMS...
DREAMS OF HORROR AND MYSTERY. YET... WHEN A DREAM
IS SHARED BY TWO PEOPLE...
CAN IT ONLY BE A DREAM?



A DREAM ... AND YET, NOT A DREAM.
TWO SMALL FIGURES ON A SHIP
OUT OF THE PAST... KNOWING IT
COULDN'T BE HAPPENING, AND
YET, DREADFULLY AFRAID!

DICK! DICK! IT'S ONLY A
WE'RE ON THE DREAM, DARLING...
SHIP! BUT IT'S SO
REAL!

























THERE WAS SOME AS SAID SHE
WAS SENT OUT WITHOUT ENOUGH
WATER AND RATIONS FOR HER
JOURNEY, SO THE OWNER COULD
COLLECT INSURANCE ON HER.
SOME SAY THE SOULS OF THEM
SUFFERIN' SAILORS ARE WANDERIN' THE SEAS UNTIL THE
LAST OF THE OWNER'S KIN IS
WIPED OUT!











NO! IT'S NO CARVED IMPOSSIBLE. FIGURE, MASTER YOU'RE JUST CARTWRIGHT ... A CARVED BUT A SOUL FIGURE ON . DOOMED TO ETER-A SHIP NAL TORMENT MODEL! TILL YOU JOIN US. YOU CAN'T THEN OUR WAN-HURT ME! DERIN' WILL STOP!









































A LIFE-SIZED MAN PUPPET! FOR WEEKS DORIAN WORKS DAY AND NIGHT ON IT... A FIGURE OF WOOD AND METAL AND STEEL SPRINGS! WITH MECHANICAL CONTROL-LEVERS... SO INGENIOUS THAT HE CAN MAKE THE PUPPET WALK. EVEN GRIP HEAVY OBJECTS

























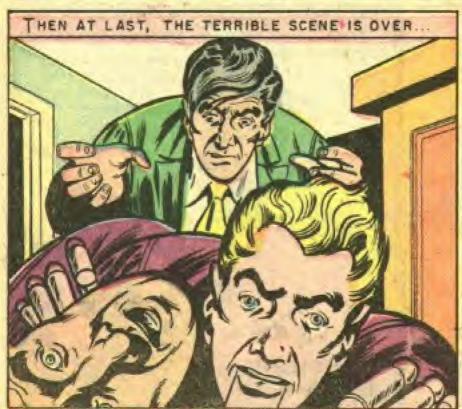














IS THIS DORIAN GRANT STAGGERING IN A DAZE FROM THE SCENE OF MURDER ?









THE UNNAMEABLE THING THAT BRUNO HAD BECOME NOT KNOWING HOW TO USE THIS HUMAN MECHANISM, NOT KNOWING THE MEANING OF RUSHING AUTOMOBILES THAT CAN KILL! /5





Whighever it was, nothing is here now save the lifeless, mortal shell of Dorian grant...



WHICH WAS THE
KILLER? SURELY
THERE ARE MORE
THINGS IN HEAVEN
AND EARTH THAT
PUZZLE THE HUMAN
MIND THAN IT CAN



THE HOUSE OF SKULLS!

Ellen gazed into the Chinese crystal. Its blue depths reflected the shifting colors of the old witch-woman's hut. The ball was ancient. It had been the property of the Emperors of China, and before that, of the legendary rulers of Sunken Lemuria. Into its depths had gone the sights and sounds of thousands of years of human history and horror. The crone sitting opposite Ellen laughed harshly.

"You want to see your lover again, eh? He whom they shot to death? I can do it . . . for a price!" She chuckled again,

and rubbed her dried old hands.

Ellen had to find out the answer from the dead. There was a fortune in loot hidden by the man the cops had cut down.

"Gaze into the crystal, girl." The old witch's yellow eyes glared at the girl. "Gaze deep and watch, watch!"

Ellen stared into the ball's glow until she felt dizzy. The hut was whirling around her, vanishing into fog. The ball grew before her eyes. A greenish light seemed to flow from its depths and surround her, and then ...

She was no longer sitting in the hut.

She was standing on a stony path under the glare of a burning sky. Before her stretched a wall, a wicker-work of bones, yellow-brown and dusty. On top ran a line of skulls, leering at her through empty eye-sockets. There was a gate in that wall, and toward it she walked, reached out a hand as in a dream and opened it. She walked through.

She was in a garden out of a nightmare by Poe. A stony path led up to a small house. The path was bordered by skulls. Plants like snakes writhed and hissed in that garden, and there was the croaking of toads and the scuttling of crablike spiders amidst this living foliage. She walked slowly toward the house. . . It was ghastly, incredible, yet it was vividly real. This was no dream. She knew that she had actually been transported - some-where!

A figure came out of the house, stopped in the doorway, and looked at her. It was tall, thin. At a distance it looked like her Arnie. She called out his name. The figure raised its head, started down the path.

She walked towards it, then hesitated, stopped. It was Arnie, alive, walking, but. . . what a change! He looked as if he had lain in a grave for many months, drying, rotting, crumbling. Shreds of dried flesh clung to bones from which the life had long ago fled. The face was not that of the man she had known. . . only the eyes, the bright eyes rimmed in red, remained wide, glittering. The thing that had been Arnie came toward her. It opened its jaws, called her name in a crackling, grating voice.

She screamed then, wildly, frantically. She turned and fled from the man who had been her lover in life. She had a glimpse of an endless expanse of fire before her,

then suddenly . . .

She was lying on the floor of the little hut and the witch was bending over her. Ellen got slowly to her feet, moaning. The crystal was shrouded in black. "Did you ask him what you wanted?" the witch whispered.

Ellenturned a horror-struck face towards the old crone. She shook her head slowly.

She had had the courage to go directly to the land beyond the grave in her search of greed. But she had not realized that there can never be a question of money or earthly loot in the eternal torments of Hell!



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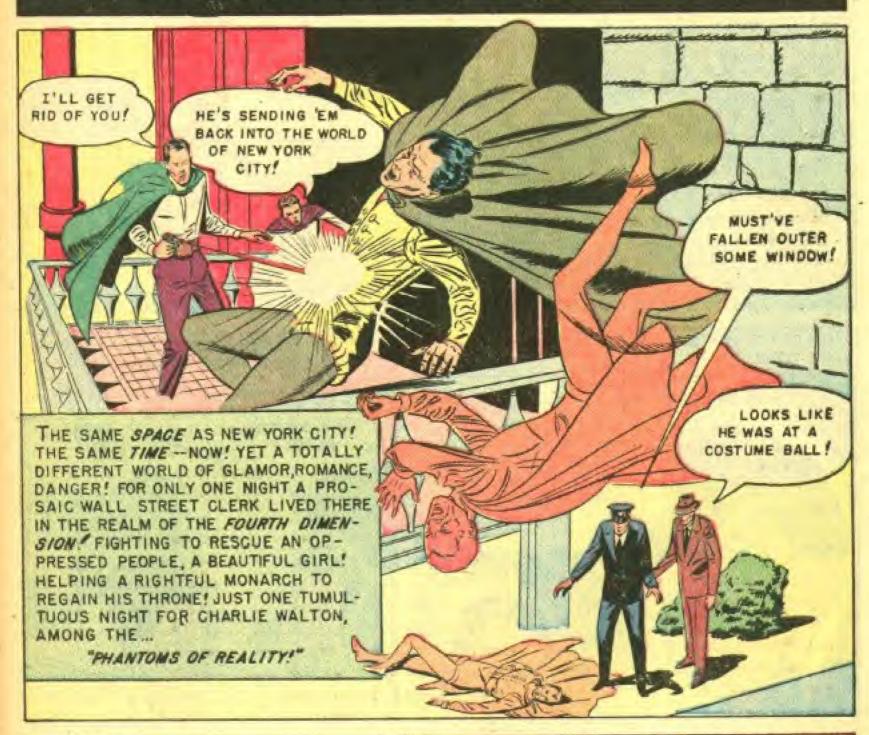
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"I ALWAYS HAD A SECRET YEN FOR ADVENTURE!

















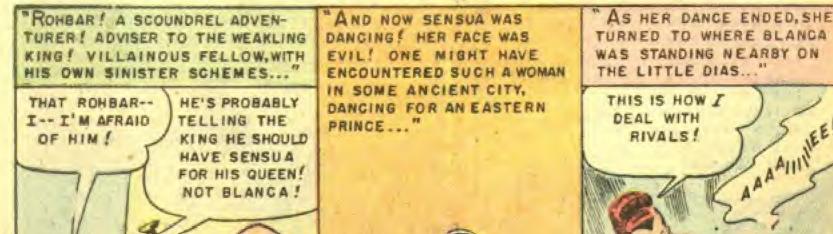




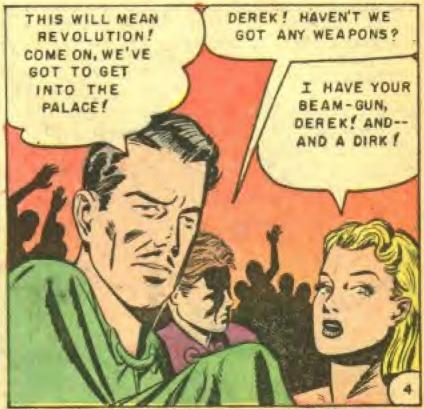






















THEN THEY RECOGNIZED HIM!





"Now THE KING'S CRIMSON

CLOAKED NOBLES CAME RUSH-



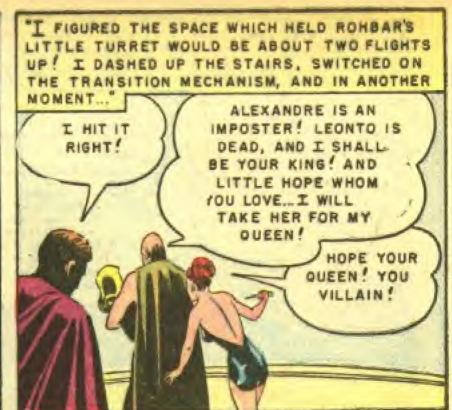






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